



# CONTACT



Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned  
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 26, No. 2

February 2008



**349th Air Mobility Wing  
welcomes new  
commander**

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Vol. 26, No. 02

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**A historic moment:** Col. Maryanne Miller becomes the first female and 22nd commander for the 349th Air Mobility Wing, and is presented with the 349th wing flag accented by many unit award streamers, from Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, in Hangar 818, with a "standing room only" crowd watching. This Air Force tradition is part of the change of command ceremony that signifies the official transfer of duties from the previous commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Gisler, to Col. Miller. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer)



Cover photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer, 349th Public Affairs



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# African-American History Month

*Submitted by  
349th Military Equal Opportunity*

Over the years the *Contact* has featured articles about African-American History to educate our community about historic events, success and contributions of African American heroes. This year's theme is *Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism*. It has been 32 years since the government officially made February African American History Month; however, its origins begin long before then with one brilliant visionary named Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

Dr. Woodson was born in New Canton, Va., in 1875, 10 years after the civil war ended slavery. His parents were former Virginia slaves and he belonged to a large poor family. To help feed his family, Dr. Woodson immediately went to work at a young age. Throughout the years he taught himself the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. At 20, he longed for formal education and looked for town that had a high school he could attend. Not long after, he found himself in Huntington, West Virginia, where he became a coal miner to survive. Brilliantly,

Dr. Woodson mastered the high school's curriculum in less than two years and graduated in 1903. Two years later, he earned his degree from Berea College in Kentucky that aided him in becoming a high school educator. He later went on to be the Dean of Liberal Arts at Howard University and at West Virginia State College. By 1907, within two years, Dr. Woodson earned a bachelor's then a master's degree from the University of Chicago. In 1912, he obtained a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

What Dr. Woodson is best known for is his success in popularizing the value of black history. He honed in on the need and importance of people in a culture being recognized and celebrated for their contributions to society and to the nation. He is known as the "father of black history" and firmly believed that the role of African-American history was being misrepresented and ignored. Dr. Woodson campaigned to raise everyone's consciousness and knowledge about the accomplishments of black Americans.

In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He started the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916. He later began

pushing for a "Negro History Week" to explore the contributions of African-Americans. His dream was fulfilled in 1926. Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February because that's when two people whom he felt had significantly affected the lives of African Americans were born: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The week evolved into Black History Month in 1976.

Today we enjoy Dr. Woodson's legacy of education and continue on with his work. Let us celebrate African-American History month together.

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***"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."***

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**--Dr. Carter G. Woodson**

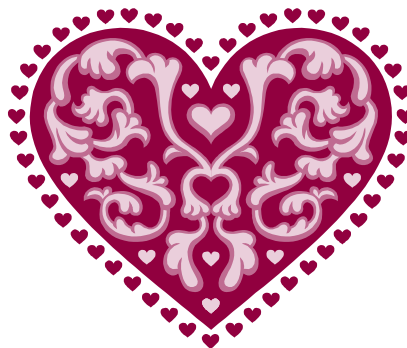
## COMMENTARY

# Showing you care, right thing to do

*by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory S. Stringer  
349th Air Mobility Wing*

One day in January, I walked into the Shoppette on base and was "smacked" by the Valentine's Day gift display. I was not expecting to see chocolates in red and heart-shaped boxes and an assortment of other items for your Valentine's Day pleasure, because my mind was still getting use to the idea that it was a New Year - 2008, with all its opportunities and challenges. But one thing that display did for me was to remind me that I did have to make some choices in the New Year. Would it be chocolates or a card or both? No seriously, it reminded me that this New Year was moving right along and with that came many choices and decisions. There were things I wanted to accomplish and see happen in this New Year. And then the heart shaped box reminded me that it is important to approach my choices and

decisions in a way that would have the right motivation. It reminded me that my choices and my daily interactions with others would be more beneficial and healthy, if they flowed from a motivation of love. Not a definition of love that is self-serving or really a "business contract" of "I will do this for you, if you do that for me," but an approach, an unconditional love that God teaches us about. God shows us a love that cares for others



because it is the right thing to do, no matter what I would or could get from doing that action. In fact, since God is love and is the source of love, we can learn some things from Him about what it looks like in action and can receive God's help to find these characteristics in our words, actions, thoughts, and very lives.

Here is a quote from the Bible out of I Corinthians 13, Verse 4 and following about what love from God looks like.

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*

So go ahead and pick up the chocolates and share them with your loved ones, but most importantly, share the gift of God's love on a daily basis with them.

# 349th welcomes new commander, says farewell as outgoing commander retires

**Story and photos by  
Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer  
349th Air Mobility Wing**

Col. Maryanne Miller assumed command of the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on Jan. 13, during a change-of-command ceremony held in Hangar 818.

"I want to thank everyone here for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality," said Colonel Miller. "I'm excited about the future and although 2008 will be a busy year with deployments, inspections, and the day-to-day mission tempo, I believe there is none better than the 349th to get things done."

Colonel Miller succeeded Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., who had been wing commander since July 2003 and is retiring from the Air Force after 35 years of service. General Gisler and his wife, Cleo, will remain in the area, spending some time with their family before pursuing other interests.

Colonel Miller comes to Travis AFB from Scott AFB, Ill., where she was the commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing, driving its mission to provide first-class, worldwide, safe, and reliable airlift for distinguished visitors and their staff.

A variety of leadership positions along with 25 years as a pilot have helped

prepare her to take over the reins at the 349th AMW. Colonel Miller currently has more than 4,500 flying hours in six types of aircraft: T-37, T-38, C-141B/C, C-5A/B, C-9, C-40C aircraft.

During her career, Colonel Miller has served as a T-37 instructor pilot for the 96th Flying Training Squadron, Williams AFB, Ariz.; chief of flight safety, C-141 examiner pilot for the 62nd Airlift Wing and later a C-141 examiner pilot for the 313th Airlift Squadron, both at McChord AFB, Wash.; deputy operations group commander for the 459th Airlift Wing and operations officer for the 756th Airlift Squadron both at Andrews AFB, Md.; and while at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C., she served as chief of strategic airlift, REO, and later as fighter forces programmer, REX; operations officer and deputy operations group commander for the 459th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.; Air Reserve Technician C-5 pilot at Dover AFB, Del., and finally, the Colonel was operations group commander for the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott AFB, Ill., before being promoted to wing commander there.

The Colonel earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. She was a distinguished graduate from the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and has successfully completed Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Flight Safety Officers School, Norton AFB, Calif.; Air Command and Staff seminar and Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Looking to the future Col. Miller has set some priorities.

"My top priorities for the year will be you and your readiness," said Colonel Miller. "We will continue to focus on our core competencies of maintaining our combat readiness and making significant contributions to the war on terror;



Col. Maryanne Miller, new commander on the 349th Air Mobility Wing, addresses a formation of wing members, along with members from the local community, who filled Hangar 818, where the traditional Change of Command ceremony was conducted, Jan. 13.

developing our airmen; and ensuring family, community and employer support."

"Our mission is clear—to provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners; flying and fighting as an Unrivaled Wingman," said Colonel Miller.

"It is my distinct honor and most humble privilege to serve with each and everyone of you and to be your commander," she concluded. "Let's get it done!"

Colonel Miller is the first female and 22nd commander for the 349th AMW since its inception in 1943.

## Awards and Medals

- Legion of Merit
- Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
- Aerial Achievement Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
- Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- National Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- Southwest Asia Service Medal with one device
- Kosovo Campaign Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- Air Force Longevity Service Award with three oak leaf clusters
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one device
- Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
- Air Force Training Ribbon
- Kuwait Liberation Medal

# Military Saves Week - taking care of business

by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff  
349th Air Mobility Wing

**M**ake yourself happy and spend a little on savings! Feb. 24 through March 2, the Department of Defense will be campaigning Military Saves Week, making this a great time to evaluate your family's financial preparedness.

Military families are encouraged to commit to a savings plan during this event through organizations such as the Airmen and Family Readiness Center, [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org), and [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com).

America's savings rate is at an all time low and family's are at risk for falling into financial hardship, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. Fortunately, as military members, Reservists have access to free budgeting and financial planning.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing is dedicated helping its members get educated and get financially prepared.

"We have three family readiness consultants that are eager and happy to sit down with Reservists and their families to

create a budget and financial plan," said Jack Watts, director of the 349th Airmen and Family



Readiness Center.

Putting a little of each paycheck away before spending may also save you stress and worry.

"Saving before you see it is a great way of getting ahead," said Watts, "Being able to set a goal is the key and anyone who wants to work a financial plan can be successful. The real cool part is getting back that sense of control when you see your efforts start to pay off."

"We work hand-in-hand with our active duty counterparts to bring educational classes to our military community," said Master Sgt. Pamela Silas, family readiness consultant. "Members are encouraged to give us a call at (707) 424-1616 to set up an appointment to go over a financial plan. They may also want to call the active duty center at (707) 424-2486 to inquire about classes being offered during the week."

The Department of Defense actively encourages emergency savings accounts. According to [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org), an initial emergency account of \$500 - \$1000 is recommended for common set backs like automotive repair or dental work.

Long term savings can include U.S. Savings Bonds or Individual Retirement Accounts. Short term solutions might be Certificates of Deposit or Health Savings Accounts. In some cases, these accounts can grow tax free, reducing taxable income and saving even more.

Military members have access to

Veterans Administration benefits, which may assist service personnel in achieving home ownership and improve financial well-being.

Well-being is a whole person concept and Reservists have a network of support to help them become successful savers. The chaplain's office can offer private counsel for members who need to discuss concerns without fear or shame. The first sergeant of each unit is tasked with helping each member develop a family care plan to ensure personal preparedness. Wingmen within the Reserve can include co-workers, supervisors, and commanders, all of whom are interested in seeing each member succeed.

"I speak with people all the time whose financial trouble has caused them great concern and put them in crisis mode," said Chaplain Lebane Hall, 349th AMW. "Members usually see the situation coming and I encourage them to have hope. Planning is certainly preferable to being reactionary."

Tools for helping your savings grow might be to pay yourself first. By taking money to save before it can be spent on other things. Put bonuses or pay raises into savings. Write down goals and seek assistance in achieving them. Surround yourself with understanding, helpful, happy people that have an interest in seeing you achieve your success, like your Air Force Reserve family.

## Reserve Command Recruiting Service seeks applicants

**T**he Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is now seeking applicants to fill recruiting positions in locations across the globe.

In addition to finding qualified applicants for careers in the Air Force Reserve, a recruiter interacts with the community and serves as a representative of the Reserve 24 hour a day.

"We're always looking for enthusiastic, qualified people. If you are motivated to excel, perform above the status quo, and are physically and morally fit this could be the career move you've been looking for," said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Schoch, chief of the AFRC Recruiting Service training branch.

The process begins with a face-to-face interview with the local senior recruiter. "If you meet the qualifications you will be asked to complete a packet, to include a current physical," Chief Schoch said. "The packet will be sent to our headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to the recruiter selection board for evaluation."

If selected, applicants attend an evaluation and selection course at the recruiting service headquarters here. Applicants are evaluated on "potential to become a successful recruiter. The

course is five-days long designed to introduce prospective candidates to reserve recruiting. During this course, candidates will undergo an open-ranks inspection, participate in physical training, give speeches and complete memorization work. Challenges are progressive. The top candidates are afforded the opportunity to attend the recruiter class. The recruiting course at Lackland AFB, Texas, is six-weeks long.

Instruction includes Reserve benefits and entitlements, program selection criteria, advertising and promotion, community relations, speech and salesmanship. Course emphasis is on student performance and practical application.

An initial recruiting tour of extended active duty can last up to four years. Tour extensions are reserved for those who "meet or exceed the highest standards, demeanor, appearance, integrity, production and acceptance of responsibility," Chief Schoch said.

For more, contact the local Air Force Reserve recruiter or senior recruiter in your area at (707) 424-3111 or call Master Sgt. Briana Ontiveros, the training NCO at the headquarters, at DSN 497-0630 or commercial (478) 327-0630. (AFPN)



## PROMOTIONS



### Senior Master Sergeant

Carl R. Carlson, 349th AMXS  
Scott A. Milo, 82nd APS  
Steven S. West, 349th SFS



### Master Sergeant

Susan S. Kennedy, 312th AS  
William V. McCune, 349th MXG  
Theresa L. Serrano, 82nd APS  
Trevor L. Thorp, Jr., 349th MXG



### Technical Sergeant

Gaylen R. Clemons, 349th AMW  
Patrick Grijalva, 349th CMS  
Isaac J. Martinez, 349th ASTS  
Mark M. Miles, 349th MXG  
Bryan P. Nalette, 312th AS  
Eric S. Pennington, 349th MSS  
Ronnie D. Schultz, 312th AS  
Joshua A. Seymour, 312th AS



### Staff Sergeant

Paul D. Dobranski, 749th AMXS  
Efren V. Lopez, 349th ASTS  
Hilda G. Maurera, 349th AMXS  
Sergio D. Nascimbeni, 349th AMDS  
Luis Parra, Jr., 82nd APS  
Mark A. Short, 70th ARS



### Senior Airman

Andrew J. Hunt III, 349th AMXS  
Franchesca G. Wenthur, 349th MSS



### Airman First Class

Mark C. Sibal, 349th AMDS  
Stephen R. Zorro, 301st AS



### Airman

Jordan M. Dean, 349th MDS

**(Promotions effective Jan. 1, 2008)**

## UNIT VACANCIES

AFSC	AFSC Title	Grade	#	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#
11M3A	Mobility Pilot, C-5	Officer	4	3C071	Com-Comp Sys Ops	MSgt	1
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, C-17	Officer	8	3E051	Electrical Systems	SSgt	3
12M3Y	Mobility Navigator	Officer	1	3E052	Electrical Power Prod	SSgt	3
1A071	In Flight Refueling	TSgt	1	3E471	Utilities Systems	SSgt	2
1A151	Flight Engineer	TSgt	1	3E851	Explosive Ord Disposal	SSgt	4
1A271	Aircraft Loadmaster	TSgt/MSgt	1/1	3E891	Explosive Ord Disposal	SMSgt/CMSgt	1/1
1C351	Command Post	SSgt	1	3E951	Readiness	SSgt	1
1N071	Operations Intelligence	TSgt/SMSgt	2/1	3M051	Services	SSgt	2/1
1T071	Surv, Evas, Resist & Esp	TSgt	1	3S051	Personnel	SSgt	3
21R3	Logistics Readiness	Officer	2	3S251	Education & Training	SSgt	1
2A551J	Aerospace Maint, C-5	SSgt	20	41A3	Health Services Admin	Officer	3
2A551L	Aerospace Maint, KC-10	SSgt	1	44F3	Family Physician	Officer	1
2A5571	Aerospace Maintenance	TSgt/MSgt	2/1	44M3	Internist	Officer	3
2A553B	Intergrated Avionics Sys	TSgt	1	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer	3
2A651A	Aerospace Propul, Jet Eng	SSgt	13	45A3	Anesthesiologist	Officer	1
2A652	Aerospace Ground Equip	SSgt	5	45B3	Orthopedic Surgeon	Officer	1
2A654	Aircraft Fuel System	SSgt	2	46F3	Flight Nurse	Officer	2
2A655	Aircraft Hydraulic System	SSgt	2	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer	10
2A656	Aircraft Elect & Envir Sys	SSgt	2	46N3E	Clinical Critical Nurse	Officer	1
2A672	Aerospace Ground Equip	TSgt	1	47G3A	Dentist, Comprehensive	Officer	1
2A675	Aircraft Hydraulic Systems	TSgt	2	48A3	Aerospace Medicine	Officer	2
2E151	Satellite/WB Comm Equip	SSgt	1	48R3	Diagnostic Radiologist	Officer	3
2E153	Ground Radio Comm	SSgt/TSgt	1/3	4A091	Health Services Mgnt	SMSgt	1
2E173	Ground Radio Comm	MSgt	1	4A151	Medical Material	SSgt	1
2T251	Air Transportation	SrA/SSgt	13/15	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svc	SMSgt	3
2T351	Spec Veh & Equip Maint	SSgt	1	4T051	Medical Lab	SSgt	1
32E3G	General Civil Engineer	Officer	2	51J3	Judge Advocate	Officer	2
32E3H	EOD Engineer	Officer	1	5J071	Paralegal	SSgt	1

For more information about these vacancies, go to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/MainMenu.asp>.

# Records readiness vital to success

*Submitted by  
349th Mission Support Squadron*

**P**ersonnel records readiness is vital to the success of the Air Force mission. Keeping your virtual record of emergency data up-to-date is one of your responsibilities as an Airman. These Questions and Answers were put together to help assist in keeping your vRED current:

## **Got vRED?**

The purpose of the virtual record of emergency data vRED is to provide names and addresses of the persons to be notified in case of death, injury or emergency.

## **Is vRED mandatory?**

Yes. This is a mandatory requirement for all Air Force personnel including Reserve, Air National Guard and individuals assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve.

## **How do I update my vRED?**

You can access your vRED through the virtual Military Personnel Flight, vMPF, which is now accessible through the Air

Force Portal: <https://www.my.af.mil>.

## **How do I find the vRED?**

Once you are in the vMPF, select Individual Actions and then select Record of Emergency Data.

## **I just got married can I update my martial status on my vRED?**

No. You must physically go the Military Personnel Flight, Customer Service and provide legal proof of this change so that it can be updated in Military Personnel Data System and Defense Eligibility and Enrollment System.

## **I just moved and I'm trying to update my address but I kept getting an error message?**

More than likely you are entering a special character (/ # . -). No special characters can be used.

## **Can I update dependent status changes?**

No. You must physically go to the MPF and show legal proof of this change so that it can be updated in MILPDS and DEERS.

## **I have had no contact with my father**

**since I was child and I don't know his address. What do I do?**

You have the option of selecting "Unknown address-I have not had recent contact and I cannot provide an address".

## **How often do I have to update my vRED?**

Whenever a change occurs, i.e., change of address, martial status, dependent status and name change.

## **I'm deploying do I need my vRED?**

Yes. You are required to have two copies of your vRED in your mobility folder.

For further information or assistance on vRED, please contact Customer Service, 349th Military Personnel Flight, Bldg. 228, Room 103, (707) 424-2345 or visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775, select option 1, 1, 2.



## 'Dashboard' puts Reserve Airmen in driver's seat

*by Senior Master Sgt.  
Kelly Mazezka*

*AFRC Personnel Center Public Affairs*

**A**n enhancement to the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, or vPC-GR, was launched in December and put Air National Guard and Reserve Airmen in the driver's seat of their personnel transactions.

The new vPC-GR "dashboard" will streamline the way Airmen manage their vPC-GR account profiles, submit new requests, check the status and coordinate on existing transactions.

"We're trying to make vPC-GR more efficient for everyone," said Lt. Col. Doug Ottinger, the director of the Air Reserve Personnel Center's directorate of future operations and integration. "The dashboard will allow you to complete all your coordination actions at once, with one log on."

Since 2006, vPC-GR has enabled more than 25,000 online transactions for retirements and decorations, to route through coordinators, reviewers or

approving officials. In the past, coordinators would receive an email for every transaction requiring their review and have to log in and log out for each.

The dashboard, on the other hand, enables the coordinators, reviewers and approving officials to process a transaction, monitor its progress, attach related documents, develop reports and initiate any additional transactions under one logon.

The vPC-GR dashboard also will reduce the number of email notifications necessary to complete the coordination process. The coordinator, reviewers and approval officials will have the ability to choose to receive one email a day or none.

"With the old system, commanders coming in for their (unit training assembly) weekend could be faced with hundreds of e-mails just for vPC-GR transactions," Colonel Ottinger said. "Many of our customers found the number of e-mails generated by every request excessive. Now they decide how many they receive. That's good news."

When an Airman sets up his or her vPC-GR account profile, the system will default

to send a notification email to the member when there are pending actions. Airmen who would rather not receive the email notification can uncheck the appropriate box. Airmen who choose this option are responsible to check their dashboard frequently for pending actions.

Another dashboard feature allows specific Airmen to eliminate processing delays by delegating their responsibility to another member within the organization. If a primary member has delegated his or her role to another, it cannot be further delegated to someone else. The primary can release the delegated role by designating an expiration date or deleting it upon return to duty.

For example, if a first sergeant must attend a class, go on an extended TDY or deploy, he or she can delegate the first sergeant role to another responsible Airman in the unit.

The dashboard will affect coordination on existing vPC-GR retirements and awards and decorations applications. Information can be found on the Air Reserve Personnel Center's Personnel Services Delivery Transformation page.



# A Taste of Fitness



Come Tryout the Latest Fitness Classes

**February A and B Flights**

Saturday

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fitness Center

Aerobics Room

POC – Senior Master Sgt. Aretha Chandler, (707) 424-5183  
and Mr. Harvey Davis, (707) 424-8425



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**Feb. 14**



**Valentine's Day**

